SECTION I

PART U POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR COUNTING AND ACCEPTING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CREDITS IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN COLORADO

1.00 Introduction

Legislation passed in the 2004 legislative session requires public higher education institutions in the State to treat American Sign Language as a foreign language for the purposes of granting and receiving academic credit. This policy is designed to ensure that:

- Higher Education institutions treat American Sign Language as a foreign language;
- Students are able to count the completion of American Sign Language courses or demonstrated proficiency in ASL toward all college or university foreign language requirements, except specific requirements related to an academic major.

This policy applies to all state-supported institutions of higher education (i.e., four-year and two-year colleges), including all entering freshmen admitted into any state-supported college or university, and all continuing undergraduate students in the public system of higher education in Colorado. **23-1-128**, **C.R.S.**, issues the following directive to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education:

Commission directive – American sign language in higher education institutions. (3) (a) On or before December 1, 2004, the commission shall adopt the necessary policies and procedures to require higher education institutions in the state to treat American Sign Language as a foreign language for purposes of granting and receiving academic credit.

2.00 Policy

- 2.01 This policy applies to all state-supported institutions of higher education (i.e., two-year and four-year colleges) that offer academic credit for foreign language courses.
- A student who is enrolled in a state-supported institution of higher education that offers credit for foreign language courses may receive academic credit for completing courses or demonstrating proficiency in American Sign Language on the same basis as any other foreign language.
- 2.03 A student will be able to count American Sign Language credits toward satisfying any foreign language requirements, unless a specific foreign language other than American Sign Language is required for a particular academic major.
- 2.04 Two units of American Sign Language credits earned or awarded in high school (or the

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equivalent earned prior to the time of application) shall satisfy the foreign language entrance requirements of any public higher education institution in Colorado.

2.05 Colleges and universities may offer one or more elective courses in American Sign Language, in which case students may count American Sign Language courses as elective credits on the same basis as foreign language elective credits. Colleges are not required to offer ASL coursework.

3.00 Procedures

- 3.01 The awarding of academic credit for ASL courses is based upon equivalencies, i.e., one semester of college ASL coursework is equivalent to one semester of college foreign language coursework.
- 3.02 Students will need to satisfactorily complete, either through ASL coursework taken in high school or college ASL coursework, or demonstrated proficiency by exam, the appropriate amount of coursework and/or level of proficiency necessary to meet college foreign language admission requirements and/or graduation requirements. For example, some colleges require three semesters of college-level foreign language, or equivalent proficiency, to graduate, in which case three semesters of ASL coursework, or comparable proficiency, will be required.
- 3.03 One year of high school foreign language (one unit) equates to one semester of college-level foreign language. Beginning in 2010, all four-year colleges in Colorado will require a minimum of two years of high school foreign language coursework in the same language for college admissions purposes. Thus to satisfy the minimum foreign language pre-collegiate admissions requirement, two years of high school ASL coursework, or demonstrated proficiency, would be required. Whether or not ASL high school coursework is taken to meet the foreign language pre-collegiate admissions requirement, high school ASL coursework shall count toward satisfying the minimum academic elective requirements of the pre-collegiate admissions requirements in the same manner as any other foreign language credits.
- 3.04 A college that does not offer ASL coursework may seek advice from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind if it wishes to consider developing such courses.
- 3.05 Students whose ASL credits or successful proficiency test results do not satisfy college foreign language requirements may appeal to the Commission on Higher Education, using the Commission's student appeal process.
- 3.06 To ensure transferability of ASL courses, any college-level ASL course or proficiency exam score deemed by the GE-25 Council to be equivalent to a foreign language course approved for guaranteed transfer under the CCHE's GT-Pathways statewide transfer program, will also be approved for guaranteed transfer.

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